



The Starlight Children's Foundation helps seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities.

2008/2009

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SPOTLIGHT STORY

Spotlight on Tyrese Alleyne-Davis



The Starlight Foundation is a very important organization for sick kids like me. Even though my abilities are different than other kids, the Starlight Foundation always makes me feel like I can do ANYTHING!!!



Although Cerebral Palsy is his diagnosis, it certainly doesn't stop Tyrese and his family from enjoying life. They have been participating in Starlight events for the last four years.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT STARLIGHT'S 24TH ANNUAL GALA

IN HIS OWN WORDS

Good evening ladies, gentlemen, and distinguished guests. My name is Tyrese Alleyne-Davis and this is my mom Felicia.

I am 9 years old and I live in Brooklyn, NY. Mom and I have been a part of the Starlight family since I was a little kid!

With the encouragement I receive I know my possibilities are ENDLESS!!

The Starlight Foundation has opened doors and exposed me to things I could only DREAM ABOUT!!

We've gone to CONCERTS, MOVIE PREMEIRES, SPORTING EVENTS AND CAMP PONTIAC and we even had dinner with THE ROCKETTES... WOW THEIR LEGS ARE REALLY LONG!!!

While I was in the hospital...Starlight sent clowns to cheer the children up...my favorite is Looney Lenny...he's my buddy.

Also at the hospital Starlight had Fun Centers by Nintendo that you could play at your bed while you receive treatments and play games like Wii.

We all know that the economy is really, really, really, bad...but it's important that you find it in your hearts and really dig deep to help kids like me out!!

I plan to go to Harvard Law School...I'm not exactly sure what type of law I'm gonna practice...but in about 15 or 20 years look me up...I promise not to change you much!!!

I would like to thank everyone at Starlight - Ms. Elaine, Ms. Lauren, Mr. David, Ms. Michele and her son Wesley...he's really cool...for asking me to speak tonight and making me feel like a REGULAR KID!!!

You might see me like this sitting here...BUT... don't let the wheelchair FOOL you!!

Thank You All For Listening and Good Night!!!

STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S
FOUNDATION NY*NJ*CT

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Kids Helping Kids

This year Starlight built a wonderful partnership with the sixth graders at **Washington Street School** in Franklin Square, New York. The students raised over \$2,000 for Starlight programs at North Shore University Hospital on Long Island. To raise money, they sold paper stars, held car washes and band-aid drives, and collected coins.

One of the special gifts the children of Washington Street School gave to their friends at North Shore was the large mural they created that will cover a wall at the hospital. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to this wonderful group of students, their teachers and parents.



Grade school children from **Friends Seminary**, a private school in New York City with a Quaker heritage and values, made hundreds of small cuddly soft lambs and monkeys to be given out to children in a Starlight Admit Kit when they check in to the hospital. These Admit Kits contain fun and useful things to occupy a child's time and attention while in the hospital.



Starlight was the recipient of three **Penny Harvest** collections in New York area schools this past year. Children at PS 156, The Waverly School in Brooklyn; Hudson Honors Middle School in Manhattan; and Tanzer GED Plus in Manhattan, collected pennies, turning those pennies into grants for Starlight. The combined dollars raised through Penny Harvest was \$1,050! These kids and their penny harvest drives helped put smiles on the faces of seriously ill kids throughout the tri-state area.

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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REACH OUT TO STARLIGHT KIDS

Every year, a group of select NYU freshmen venture out into New York City to volunteer with various non-profit organizations as part of Project Outreach. In 2007 they chose Starlight as their charity because they found Starlight's mission so compelling. What started out as volunteering at many of our Great Escapes became the students creating and running their own events. Their Great Escapes recognized Martin Luther King Week, and included a Halloween Party, a Valentines Day Party, and an Under-the Big-Top circus event.



Brianna, Kylie and Siobhan Flynn are three sisters each of whom recently graduated from school (elementary, middle and high school). At their graduation party, they spoke warmly of Starlight and asked that donations be made in lieu of party favors. All three girls wanted to help brighten the lives of children faced with the challenges of illness.



There is always a grand finale project to the program and in 2008 the students chose to coordinate a wonderful carnival for the children of Starlight. From face painting to puppet shows to DDR (Dance Dance Revolution), there was something for kids of all ages and families too. The NYU students planned all the events with so much creativity and



enthusiasm and the children and their families all had a blast! Not only were their events fun, but the students developed close bonds with the kids. The Starlight children were an inspiration and their warmth and affection made the effort worthwhile for the students that had spent so much time planning all the Great Escapes events.

I loved interacting with Starlight's children and families at our carnival. I drew henna tattoos on dozens of kids. The kids' excitement and imaginative ideas for the tattoos they wanted were heart-warming. I'm very glad we were able to provide a venue for the kids to get out of the hospital or the house for a day, enjoy themselves, and forget about being sick for a little while.

– NYU Student Meb Byrne



PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL
SUPPORT PROGRAM

Celebrates

13 YEARS

2009 RECIPIENTS

The Children's Hospital at
Albany Medical Center (NY)
Music Therapy

Arnot Ogden
Medical Center (NY)
Installation of Busy Kids Wall Games

Children of Bellevue (NY)
Therapeutic Horticulture Program

Beth Israel Medical Center (NY)
Installation of TV's/DVD's and VCR's

Blythedale Children's
Hospital (NY)
Child Life Specialist

Brooklyn Hospital Center (NY)
*Flat Panel TV's, DVD Library
and Disc Changer*

Children's Hospital of
New Jersey (NJ)
Child Life Specialist

Children's Specialized
Hospital (NJ)
Handicapped-accessible Bus

Chilton Memorial Hospital (NJ)
Wii Game Systems and Games

Clara Maas Medical Center (NJ)
Part-time Child Life Program

Cooper University Hospital (NJ)
Portable DVD Players

Crouse Hospital (NY)
Toys and CLC Conference Support

Danbury Hospital (CT)
Renovation of Nine Exam Rooms

Starlight in the Hospital

STARLIGHT FUN CENTER™ MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT UNITS

Starlight Fun Centers bring entertainment and fun times to hospitalized children. With a Sharp Aquos flat-panel screen, a DVD player and a Nintendo Wii, children can watch movies or play games for hours.

Fun Centers come with a wide assortment of movies and games. These units roll into emergency rooms to distract children from the scariness of what is happening, or bedside as a child recovers from treatments or surgery. Even children who cannot move can still play. Doctors, nurses, Child Life, parents – but especially kids – all love the Fun Centers because they help children relax, become less frightened and engage their minds and hands in play.



I wish you could see the smiles and pure glee that we see on the faces of our patients as we roll the Fun Center into their room. These Fun Centers not only distract and entertain the patients so that they don't focus on their pain and anxiety, but they get entire families engaged in playing the games. We hear lots of laughter and shouts of joy coming from the rooms. Who knew a stay in the hospital could be so fun!

– Michelle Brauntuch, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, NJ

If you would like to place a Fun Center in a tri-state hospital of your choice, please call our office at 212-354-2878.

Starlight Site™ Care Rooms

While in the hospital, many seriously ill children spend the bulk of their time in treatment rooms. This is where some of the child's most difficult, most invasive, most painful experiences take place. These rooms are often dreary, intimidating areas in need of renovation and are often overlooked.

Starlight has begun renovating these treatment rooms to help calm children's fears and distract them from their pain while undergoing treatment. To date we have created 4 Care Rooms (at Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center in New York City, St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Paterson, New Jersey and 2 at White Plains Hospital Center in White Plains, NY) with themes that are familiar and reassuring for children.



STARLIGHT CARE ROOM AT ELIZABETH SETON

Send a Smile, Send a Bear ...to a hospitalized child!



What could be better than sending a cuddly Teddy Bear to a hospitalized child? A Teddy Bear can provide the support and comfort a child needs during a scary medical procedure, ease their nervousness before a surgery and cuddle with them in recovery.

For a donation of \$25 Starlight Children's Foundation will send a Teddy Bear to a child who needs a smile the most – a child faced with illness, injury or disability. Words cannot express the joy on the faces of these kids when they receive this teddy bear.

When children feel insecure, frightened or hurting, they often turn to a teddy bear for comfort.

Through the Send a Smile, Send a Bear Program you can celebrate your friends and family members by purchasing these adorable Bears that will be delivered to a seriously ill child in their honor. What a perfect gift for all those on your birthday and holiday list who will celebrate your gift of joy to a sick child!

Though you won't see or touch your gift, please know that a sick child will indeed see it, touch it and feel its warmth. Maybe the child will smile, giggle, feel a bit brighter and feel a lot better.

To learn more about how you can send bears to hospitalized children, please call Starlight at 212-354-2878 or log on to our website at www.starlight-newyork.org.



ROOFTOP PARK AT LINCOLN HOSPITAL

Last May Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in the Bronx welcomed Starlight Children's Foundation for the ribbon cutting ceremony of a new rooftop park, complete with playground equipment, tables, benches, shrubs and flowers. This fun and inviting space, made possible as a result of Starlight's Pediatric Hospital Support Program, is attached to the pediatric floor and will be used as a park for the children, helping to normalize their environment and improve the quality of their stay. Many of these



children live in crowded apartment buildings or housing projects, with little access to a safe outdoor space. The new rooftop park will add a new dimension to the children's hospital stay by giving them access to the outdoors and the opportunity to play with other children who are also dealing with the challenges of hospitalization.



PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

(Continued)

Elizabeth Seton Pediatric
Center (NY)
Closed Circuit TV System

Elmhurst Hospital (NY)
Part-time Child Life Assistant

Englewood Hospital and
Medical Center (NJ)
Part-time Child Life Specialist

Flushing Hospital Medical
Center (NY)
Child Life Pilot Program

Good Samaritan Hospital (NY)
Experiential Programs

Goryeb Children's Hospital at
Morristown Memorial (NJ)
Music Therapist and Equipment

Hackensack Medical Center (NJ)
Child Life Position in Day Surgery Unit

Hospital for Special Care (CT)
Music Therapy Program

Jacobi Medical Center (NY)
Art Therapy and Supplies

Jamaica Hospital (NY)
Child Life Specialist

Jersey Shore University
Medical Center (NJ)
Music Therapy Program

JFK Medical Center (NJ)
*Pediatric Emergency Room
Redesign Project*

Komansky Center at
Weill-Cornell (NY)
Music Therapist and Equipment

Kravis Children's Hospital (NY)
Kidzone TV



PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

(Continued)

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center (NY)

Art Therapy

Maimonides Medical Center (NY)

Child Life Specialist

Montefiore Medical Center (NY)

Child Life Specialist for

Pediatric Dialysis

Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of NY Presbyterian (NY)

Yoga Program

NY Hospital of Queens (NY)

Splashes of Hope Murals

NYU Medical Center (NY)

Child Life Specialist

NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases (NY)

Child Life Specialist

Northern Westchester Hospital (NY)

Kidzpace Touch 2 Play System and supplies

Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center (NJ)

Child Life Assistant

Queens Hospital Center (NY)

Child Life Program

Robert Wood Johnson Hospital (NJ)

Welcome Bags for Pediatric Emergency Dept.

Schneider Children's Hospital (NY)

3 Part-time Child Life Specialists

Schneider Children's Hospital at North Shore (NY)

Child Life Specialist

St. Barnabas Medical Center (NJ)

Computer based Art Therapy



Starlight in the Hospital (Continued)

HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

Children often feel isolated, stressed and scared while in the hospital. Research has shown that the type of hospital activities sponsored by Starlight results in an improved quality of life for seriously ill children. Participation in these activities helps them to better cope with the physical, emotional, and psychological impact of hospitalization and their illness.

Under the umbrella called **Hospital Happenings** we have an assortment of programs and activities that reach children in the hospital.

★ **Musicians** perform and teach children about the healing power of music. Those trained as music therapists guide children to express creativity and help them develop coping skills and techniques for pain management.

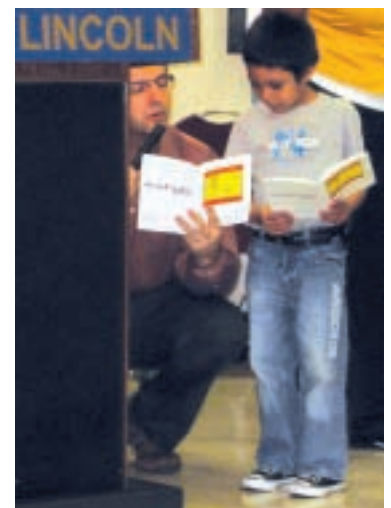
★ **Clowns**, trained to be sensitive to a sick child's needs, make them laugh, forget their fears, and find the wonder of magic.

★ **Yoga** instructors teach children the beauty and freedom of stretching one's body and aligning one's inner self with a greater whole.

★ **Starworks** sends graduate writing students into hospitals to help children communicate their inner feelings through poems, stories and essays.

★ **Hospital Parties** take place on pediatric wards and include entertainment, food and crafts.

What better way to lift children's spirits than through fun, laughter and engaging programs. All these exciting "happenings" take place on a regular basis in hospitals throughout the tri-state.



STARWORKS READING AT LINCOLN MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



Great Escapes

Providing programs and support for children in the hospital is only part of our mission. Starlight's Great Escapes program extends beyond the walls of the hospital and allows children battling a serious illness at home the opportunity to attend continuous events throughout the year including concerts, theater, sporting events, amusement park trips, camp and so much more. Chronic illness effects the entire family including the sick children, the siblings and of course, the parents, all of whom are included in the Great Escapes program. The program is designed to connect children to other children and families to other families letting them know they are not alone in their ongoing struggle. The program fosters a sense of community among children and families and helps them develop lasting friendships and support systems.



Great Escape expands to Connecticut

Starlight is pleased to announce that the Great Escapes program has expanded to Hartford, Connecticut with the addition of coordinator, Robert Waltersdorff. Since early autumn of 2008, Robert has planned over 25 Great Escapes for Starlight families. The state's abundance of farms and parks has allowed him to plan a variety of outdoor activities including apple and pumpkin picking, hayrides, berry picking and even outdoor movies. Several months of harsh winter weather put a damper on Connecticut travels, but spring brought forth plenty of fun events such as baseball games, bowling, Dinosaur State Park, a children's film festival and so much more. Summer events included a trip to Mystic Seaport, Beardsley Zoo and Lake Compounce Amusement Park to name a few. Starlight is thrilled to be able to offer so many wonderful opportunities to our families residing in Connecticut.

PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

(Continued)

St. Barnabas Hospital (NY)
*Flat screen TV's for Pediatric
Emergency Dept.*

St. Charles Hospital (NY)
Dynavox System

St. Joseph's Regional
Medical Center (NJ)
Music Therapist

St. Luke's Roosevelt
Hospital (NY)
Music Therapy

St. Mary's Hospital for
Children (NY)
Music Program

St. Peter's Hospital (NJ)
Music Therapy Program

St. Vincent's Hospital (NY)
Part-time Child Life Specialist

Stonybrook University
Hospital (NY)
*Part-time Child Life Specialist
for Radiology Dept.*

SUNY Syracuse (NY)
Art Therapy Program

Vassar Brothers Medical
Center (NY)
Support Group Program

Virtua West Jersey Hospital (NJ)
Part-time Child Life Specialist

Winthrop University
Hospital (NY)
Child Life Specialist

Woodhull Hospital (NY)
Child Life Specialist

Yale-New Haven Children's
Hospital (CT)
Healing Arts Program



CAMP PONTIAC

1ST CAMP EXPERIENCE



Our first visit to **Camp Pontiac** is one none of us will forget. One hundred anxious Starlight faces lined the streets of Manhattan as a hundred more stuffed their cars to capacity with blankets, pillows and bug spray. After a long, winding ride, a few catnaps and several dozen "are we there yets?" the place we had been imagining for months suddenly became real. The feelings of uncertainty and hesitation the families experienced upon arrival had mostly subsided by the time the camp fire began. The unwanted rain on Saturday posed no threat to the excitement and enthusiasm exhibited by all. Whether it was conquering fears on the zip line, being immersed in the heated water of the pool, or building new and lasting friendships, Camp Pontiac brought new dimensions to the Starlight experience. On Sunday afternoon, as the cars and buses pulled out of the parking lot, staff and families alike understood that for the first time in Starlight's history an incredible camp experience had finally come to fruition.



EXTRATERRESTRIAL FOOD AND FUN

Starlight hosted an event at **Mars 2112**, the space-themed restaurant and arcade in midtown Manhattan. Close to a hundred eager faces waited anxiously to enter their spaceship and be transported deep into outer space. After the simulated ride, families walked through the dark, narrow hallways designed to look like passageways on Mars and were seated in a private area of the restaurant where they were greeted by their new Martian friends. After lunch, a stop at the Mars 2112 arcade made for the perfect ending to a great day.



Fashion Designers for a Day

On July 1st, Donatella Versace sat alongside Starlight children at the Whitney Museum of Art where the children each designed their own Versace canvases. As part of the *Art Unites* program, Starlight chapters throughout the country received 500 canvases and art supplies from Versace. Children were asked to create original drawings using the theme of "friendship." Each child's work will be assembled into a unique Versace tote bag and sold in boutiques worldwide with proceeds being donated to Starlight.



MOM AND DAUGHTER SPA DAY

In celebration of Mother's Day, Starlight mothers and daughters gathered at NY Perfect Spa for a morning of pampering. The quiet, peaceful atmosphere of the Upper East Side spa offered a welcome respite from the fast pace of the metropolitan area. Each mom and daughter received a manicure and pedicure as well as a light breakfast. The girls were overwhelmed by the number of nail polish colors to choose from. The few who could not decide went with a different color on each nail. We extend a special thank you to Debi Kim and the friendly staff at NY Perfect Spa for all of their assistance in making this event successful.

STARLIGHT PLAYS MINI GOLF

Parents were able to relax on the beautiful stone patio at Randall's Island Golf Center while their kids played several rounds of miniature golf. The families then headed to the picnic tent for a pizza party. Afterwards, the batting cages were opened for the baseball fans in the group.



STARLIGHT AND GARDEN OF DREAMS

So many of our Great Escapes would not be possible without the continued support of our wonderful partner, **Madison Square Garden's – Garden of Dreams Foundation**. This year Starlight families attended numerous sporting events at the Garden including Dream Nights with the Rangers, Knicks and the NY Liberty where the kids not only watched the games from a catered sky box but received special visits from the players who were more than willing to sign autographs and take photos. Cirque Du Soleil's Wintuck, Adam Grave's Retirement Party, the Kings of Leon concert and a meeting at Fuse with Harry Potter star, Daniel Radcliffe, are among the many other events Garden of Dreams brought to fruition.



One Garden of Dreams sponsored event that was particularly special for our families this year was an exclusive pre-show event before the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. In addition to



the generous donation of tickets to the show, families were treated to a catered dinner in the Roxy Suite where they were visited by Santa Claus and the Rockettes. Every Starlight child received a gift from Santa as well as a photo opportunity with the dancers. Those who weren't in the holiday spirit at the beginning of the night certainly were by the end. Thank you again, Garden of Dreams, for presenting Starlight families with these great experiences throughout the year!

NAT ROBINSON AND A STARLIGHT CHILD



LIBERTY GAME

Starlight children, parents, and staff were guests of the Garden of Dreams Foundation for the night's New York Liberty game against the San Antonio Silver Stars. After watching the Liberty pre-game warm-ups, the Starlight contingent were on hand to witness Liberty's first victory of the season from their own private suite. In addition to the exciting game-action, the children were wowed by the Liberty's two dance teams, the Torch Patrol and the Lil' Torches, as well as the playful antics of the Liberty mascot, Maddie.

STARLIGHT CHEERS ON YANKEES... FROM A SUITE

Thanks to a generous donation from Capital One Bank, 15 Starlight children and family members were invited to watch a Yankees game from a catered suite. The event, which took place over Memorial Day weekend, was a one of a kind experience in the new stadium. The kids enjoyed ball park food and a great view all in an intimate setting with their Starlight friends. Thank you Capital One!

Starlight Expands to Rochester, NY

The continued success of the Great Escapes program in both Connecticut and Albany prompted Starlight to hire a third remote Great Escapes coordinator in Rochester, NY. Elizabeth Agnello joined the Starlight team in May and has been focusing her efforts on drawing new families to the program and providing great events for Rochester's children and families in need. Events so far include a trip to a butterfly garden, the Strong Museum of Play, and the viewing of a US Women's Soccer game. With three major hospitals and a sizeable population of seriously ill children in the region, we are thrilled to touch the lives of so many more children and family members in the Rochester area.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE OSTROVER

SIX FLAGS

Our trip to Six Flags Great Adventure is our single largest and most sought after one-day Great Escape event each year. Approximately 600 Starlight family members make their way each summer to visit Great Adventure where they spend the day riding everything from giant teacups and bumper cars to wooden roller coasters and log flumes. Smiles liven up the streets of the amusement park as our children meet life-sized characters such as Bugs Bunny and Tweety Bird, stare at their parents' faces as they hop on the "big kid" rides and bump into the Starlight friends with

whom they have formed lasting relationships at events such as this one.

This special event encompasses much more than the everyday trip to an amusement park; Starlight also provides families with a catered picnic in a private tent where in addition to a delicious lunch they can dance and sing to DJ music, receive lifelike tattoos from a professional tattoo artist and watch in awe as they are once again duped by our incredible magician. At this event there is seldom talk of any tests or procedures, pain or discomfort. This is a day where children and their families truly escape the daunting reality of enduring a serious illness – an event where kids can truly be kids and families can relax.



EAT AND PLAY AT DAVE AND BUSTERS

This year Starlight held two Great Escapes at Dave and Busters in Times Square. With over 100 children and family members at each event, Starlight took over the entire main dining room. After a tasty buffet lunch, kids took on their parents and siblings in the game room where they played ski ball, air hockey, trivia and other fun arcade games. It was hard to tell who was a kid in this crowd—the parents seemed to be having just as much fun!



GREAT ESCAPES ACROSS THE BOROUGHES

The popularity of bowling among Starlight families coupled with our large demographic of Brooklyn residents prompted us to hold two bowling events at Maple Lanes in Brooklyn this winter. Recommended by two Starlight parents, the venue provides handicapped accessible ramps, bumpers and a dining facility. Other Great Escapes outside of Manhattan included trips to Citi Field in Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island zoos and the Brooklyn Aquarium and Botanical Gardens.



Holiday Parties... "Tis the Season"

Starlight continues to hold holiday parties for families and children to help them brighten their holiday season, reduce stress, and connect with other families. As part of the Great Escapes Program, Holiday Brunches took place at Bryant Park Grill in NYC and the Grand Chalet in Wayne, NJ. Each event treated the families to a special breakfast, music, a dance performance (at the Grand Chalet), a visit from Santa, prizes and a special holiday gift for each child. A big thank you to the Grand Chalet and board member Mike Weinstein of Ark Restaurants for sponsoring these wonderful events.



LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS...IN STATEN ISLAND

Thanks to Starlight child Savannah Rafferty and her mom, Sam, a small group of Starlight families were able to enjoy an incredible summer day at the Staten Island Zoo. As one of the facility's zookeepers, Sam organized a private presentation for Starlight where children were educated on a number of different animals and then given the opportunity to meet many of them up close. Afterwards, a tour of the zoo and a picnic lunch preceded a surprise visit to the petting zoo to top off the day.

BROADWAY BABIES

With an office situated in the heart of the Theater District, it's difficult not to be tempted by Broadway's never-ending allure. It is no different for our Starlight children and families who are captivated by the lights of Broadway, and the fun musicals they attended. This year's Broadway Great Escapes included performances of *In the Heights*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Mary Poppins* and *Soul of Shaolin*. Children also attended theatrical performances including the Little Orchestra Society's *Cinderella* at Avery Fisher Hall, TADA! Theater's *Little House of Cookies* for the younger ones, and Cirque du Soleil's *Wintuck* at Madison Square Garden.



LIVING MIRACLE THROWS OUT FIRST PITCH

On June 24th Starlight held its 7th Annual Mets Day event at the newly constructed Citi Field. Eight hundred Starlight children, families and supporters came out for an exciting night of baseball, food and fun as the Mets played the St. Louis Cardinals – and won!

David Gordon, a Starlight child, threw out the first pitch alongside Michael Heiss, son of David Heiss, a long time supporter and friend. David Gordon, a 14-year-old North Haven resident, called this the “most awesomest thing” he has ever done.

David was born with Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome, a genetic disorder that can cause motor skills and muscular development problems, epilepsy, growth delays and mental retardation, and was given only five years to live.

David spent the first eight years of his life using a feeding tube and suffering intense seizures. “What David has is a chronic illness,” said his mother, Carol Gordon. “We have always been dealing with it and we always will. But the past few years have been great and it is nights like these that help.”

David arrived at Citi Field with his dad, Alan, his older sister, Rebecca, and younger brother, Alex. Everybody was David’s family Wednesday night, as he offered hugs – not handshakes – to reporters, cameramen and security guards – typical of the ever-smiling teenager, who quipped “I am gonna be famous” at every flash of a camera and click of a tape recorder.

While his smile disappeared for a quick second as nerves set in before he walked to the mound in front of over 39,000 people, David’s grin quickly returned as he fired two hanging curves right into the mitt.

In typical form, the pint-sized living miracle tipped his cap to the applause of the crowd and ran off shouting about, what else, “how awesomest this was,” without even noticing his ball had been signed by Mets ace Johan Santana.

Thanks to the NY Mets, we have raised nearly \$850,000 in the past seven years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NY METS

LEFT: (FRONT ROW) DAVID GORDON, MICHAEL HEISS (BACK ROW) RAZOR SHINES, ALAN GORDON, DAVID HEISS, SANDY ALOMAR SR.



STARLIGHT IN ALBANY

This year, the success of the Albany Great Escapes program eclipsed the previous year's performance as Shaina Marron, our full time Albany coordinator, organized what seemed like an event every minute. From amusement parks and arcades to concerts and exhibitions, there is never a dull moment for Starlight families in Albany. Here are a few highlights from this year's Albany Great Escapes:



BUILD-A-BEAR

Nearly 100 children and families attended this event where the kids loved playing games and singing songs and of course building their own stuffed animal. Before their selected bear or animal was stuffed, a secret wish would be whispered to its heart and placed inside. Starlight kids made extra bears to mail to some children who couldn't attend due to last minute illness.



GIANTS TRAINING CAMP

The Giants provided a VIP tent where they served up unlimited pizza and beverages and then gave each child a special goody bag filled with Giants related items, photos and caps. Families watched the Giants practice right on the sidelines and when they were finished they were invited to meet some of the '07 Superbowl Champions up close for autographs. First to come over was Coach Coughlin, followed by Plaxico Bures, Justin Tuck and Eli Manning (*pictured above*). The kids (and parents) were so stunned to meet these stars that Shaina had to pick a few jaws up off the ground.

FAMILIES OFF TO LAKE GEORGE

"Great Escape" Action Park in Lake George is a favorite for Albany families. Over 150 children and adults received access passes to the park for unlimited rides and entrance to the water park. The day began with a BBQ buffet picnic, ice cream, visits from Looneytoons characters, and the skills of an airbrush tattoo artist and caricature artist.





BRANDING STARLIGHT

This year, Starlight was featured in an exciting outdoor visibility campaign and received invaluable exposure through the donated advertising space, thanks to OOH Media. The campaign reached millions of people in the NY*NJ*CT area through outdoor coverage on billboards, buses, transit shelters, phone kiosks, mall kiosks, and a digital screen network that were displayed in a number of doctors offices. Because of this exposure Starlight Children's Foundation NY*NJ*CT has been able to generate substantial brand awareness surrounding the NY*NJ*CT chapter.



Starlight Events

STARLIGHT CELEBRITY SPORTS AUCTION

Starlight rolled out the red carpet on Tuesday, November 3rd for the 19th Annual star-studded Celebrity Sports Auction at Madison Square Garden. Attended by nearly 500 people, the event raised nearly \$300,000 to benefit thousands of children who suffer from a wide range of critical, chronic and life-threatening diseases each day in the tri-state area.

David Diehl, New York Giants; Devin Harris, New Jersey Nets; Cullen Jones, Olympic Gold Medal Swimmer; Seth Stammers, New York Red Bulls; Colton Orr, New York Rangers; and Justin Tuck, New York Giants all received the Starlight Shining Star Award presented to them by emcee Scott Clark of WABC-TV Eyewitness News. Athletes honored in the Starlight Hall of Fame for their commitment to helping improve the quality of life for sick children included New York Jets Legend Greg Buttle, New York Mets Legend Ron Darling and New York Knicks Legend Earl "The Pearl" Monroe.



JUSTIN TUCK WITH STARLIGHT TEEN

The success of the evening would never be possible without the support of our sponsors including Allied Partners, American Airlines, Ark Restaurants Corp., Brown Harris Stevens, Buchbinder & Warren LLC, Capital One Bank, Con Edison, Cougar Trading LLC, The Feil Family Foundation, New York Knicks, New York Mets, New York Red Bulls, Q104.3/WAXO-FM, Sports Radio 66 WFAN, and Ticketmaster.

FROM LEFT: CULLEN JONES, EARL "THE PEARL" MONROE, JUSTIN TUCK, DEVIN HARRIS, DAVID DIEHL, COLTON ORR, SETH STAMMLER

FAR RIGHT: KEVAUGHN & COLTON ORR



TURNKEY EVENTS

Starlight has so many wonderful friends who have so generously taken time to care about Starlight and our mission. Below are some of the turnkey events that our supporters have put together over the last year.

Bruce Ostrover's 7th Annual Tennis Fundraiser

Special thanks to long-time supporter Bruce Ostrover, whose 7th Annual Tennis Tournament raised over \$16,000 to purchase four new Starlight Fun Center™ Mobile Entertainment Units. We are grateful to Bruce, his family, and all of those who come out to support this event every year!

China 1

China 1, a bar and restaurant in the East Village, hosted a fundraiser on behalf of Starlight. With over 100 young professionals in attendance, they raised \$1,000 for our programs.

National Doll & Toy Collectors Club of NYC

This organization has raised nearly \$3,000 for Starlight from their annual luncheons and other fundraisers. Thank you to President Irene Hesse and all members of the National Doll & Toy Collectors Club of NYC.



STARLIGHT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHILDREN & CELEBRITY SUPPORTERS AT THE 24TH ANNUAL GALA

24th Annual Gala

Starlight's 24th Annual Gala honored Tony Fineman of ACF Capital Group, Andrew J. Perel of Steptoe & Johnson, LLP and Joshua Zamir of Capstone Equities. The evening raised over \$1,000,000 to support Starlight programs and services.

A highlight of the evening was when Tyrese Alleyne-Davis, a 9 year old with Cerebral Palsy, spoke to our guests about his illness and how Starlight has opened doors and exposed him to things he could only dream about, and how being a part of Starlight Children's Foundation has made him feel like he could do anything. At the end of his speech, he received a standing ovation.

Thank you to all our donors who participated in our Special Events!

GOLF OUTINGS

LEHRHOFF GOLF OUTING

This year's 17th Annual Lehrhoff Golf Outing took place at the Crestmont Country Club in West Orange, NJ and was a huge success raising over \$108,000. Since 1993 this event has raised over \$1,600,000 to benefit sick children. Thank you to the Lehrhoff family, Marc Opfell and the Lehrhoff ABL Companies for making this event happen each year.

SIXTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

On July 20th \$155,000 was raised at the Sixth Annual Golf Outing at the Mill River Club in Oyster Bay, NY. The outing was sponsored by Cool Breeze Air Conditioning, Excel Security and Nouveau Elevator, and was held in memory of Aaron Gural. This brings the total raised for Starlight over the past six years to over \$1,000,000!

EMBLEM HEALTH GOLF OUTING

Frank Branchini, Tom Nemeth and Denise Shearer of Emblem Health organized the 15th Annual Golf Outing at the Rock Spring Club in West Orange, NJ on August 10th. This event has raised a 15-year total of nearly \$1,300,000 in support of Starlight's children and families!

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Starlight Events (Continued)

FRIENDS OF STARLIGHT

The *Friends of Starlight*, a vibrant group of young professionals, host fundraising events to benefit Starlight children.

This year the *Friends of Starlight* Executive Committee was formed. The new committee members include Leigh Boyko, Kyle Crennan, Michelle Crennan, Susan Cuneo, Brian Feil, Erika Feil-Lincoln, Lauren Kaufman, Linda Shapiro, Christine Siebold and Ashley Svrcek.

In late July the 1st event for 2009 was held on the rooftop of the hip 230 Fifth. (See photos below.) Plans for upcoming events include a cocktail party on September 23rd on the Frying Pan at Pier 66, and in October, a College Football Pub Crawl on the Upper East Side.

Information on all of these events is available on our website and Facebook Page. You can find us on Facebook under Starlight Children's Foundation NY*NJ*CT. Look us up and join the hundreds of other fans of Starlight!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Starlight-Childrens-Foundation-NYNJCT/72796708352>



PITCHER OF THE MONTH

For the fifth year running, Starlight is proud to partner with Sharp Electronics for their "Pitcher of the Month" program. Each month during the baseball season, players from the NY Mets are designated to be honored by the program. Sharp Electronics then donates a fun center to a New York hospital in honor of the pitcher of the month. Athletes recognized this season include Johan Santana, Francisco Rodriguez and Fernando Nieve (pictured far right). So far during the 2009 baseball season, Elmhurst Hospital, Brooklyn Hospital and Children's Hospital at Montefiore each received fun centers for their pediatric units.





VOLUNTEERS

The magic of Starlight is performed by a dedicated corps of over 400 active volunteers. Volunteers are an integral part of Starlight's success. They help expand the capabilities of our team so that we can fundraise and provide quality programs and services to Starlight children and their families in the tri-state area. We offer opportunities for volunteers to assist with events for children (through our Great Escapes Program), and fundraising events. Our largest fundraisers include an annual Gala dinner, a Sports Auction, a Benefit Concert, and summer golf tournaments.

To register for an event or project, request a volunteer application or for information on upcoming volunteer opportunities, e-mail shivani@starlight-nyc.org or call our Volunteer Department at 212-354-2878 ext. 120

Special Occasion Scrolls

In lieu of party favors the scroll program makes special occasions even more meaningful, by placing an elegant parchment scroll at each guest's table setting, acknowledging that a gift has been made in his/her honor to the Starlight Children's Foundation.

This program allows supporters to give back at special occasions. The scrolls can be 100% personalized for bar/bat mitzvahs, christenings, birthday parties, and other special occasions.



DAVID HEISS: VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

David Heiss, long-time friend and volunteer of Starlight, has always been very active in support of our many sports related events such as our *Celebrity Sports Auction* and *Starlight Night at Citi Field*, our annual Mets event. He not only donates great items for our auctions but he sells hundreds of tickets to our events. This year, at Starlight Night at Citi Field, David's bid won the auction for his son Michael to throw out the first pitch at the game alongside a Starlight child.

But the activity that has been so important to him takes place at holiday time. David dons his Santa costume and delivers toys to children in pediatric wards, intensive care units and burn units, where his brand of holiday cheer is needed the most.

"Becoming involved with starlight has been such a rewarding experience. Dealing with such wonderful people who have taught me to give and laugh Has been a gift on itself. I want to thank all my Friends, Family and my Partners at Weeden Co. for their unbelievable generosity."



STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S
FOUNDATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

20th Annual Celebrity Sports Auction

November 10, 2009
Sponsorships Available

25th Annual Gala

March 4, 2010
Sponsorships Available

If You
Like What
We're
Doing,
**DONATE
NOW!**

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**www.starlight-
newyork.org**

BENEFITS TO CHILDREN WHO ENGAGE WITH OUR PROGRAMS:

- ★ Decreased pain and anxiety
- ★ Increased knowledge and sense of responsibility for managing disease
- ★ Decreased need for pain medication
- ★ A greater willingness to return for treatment
- ★ A greater sense of peer support
- ★ Alleviation of stress, loneliness and isolation that often accompany prolonged illness



Planned Giving

Year after year a significant percentage of charitable donations are made through the thoughtful generosity of individuals through their Wills.

Mildred and Emanuel Goldberg, long-time friends of Starlight Children's Foundation, made such a gift through their Will. For the past two years, thanks to the forethought and generosity of the Goldbergs, Starlight has been able to provide support to tri-state area hospitals. This year, The Goldberg bequest placed two Fun Centers, two PC Pals and a Music Therapist through our Pediatric Hospital Support Program at Komansky Center for Children's Health at Cornell-Weill Medical Center. Thanks to the generosity and thoughtful planning of the Goldbergs many seriously ill children will benefit for many years to come.

Planned Giving and You

Some thoughtful planning on your part today can bring hope, strength, and joy to seriously ill children tomorrow.

A Will remains one of the most important documents you can have, as well as being one of the most flexible. We often get asked if we accept this type of donation. Starlight Children's Foundation is always honored to learn that individuals have remembered us in such a way, and we are happy to accept bequest gifts.

Not only have bequests and other planned gifts gained popularity as a means for people to make a "major" gift to their favorite charity, but they have become an increasingly vital source of growth for many charities, including Starlight Children's Foundation. The generosity of these individuals enables us to do what we do best – brightening the lives of seriously ill children and their families.

For more information on Wills and other planned gifts please contact Maureen Fox, Director of Development at Maureen@starlight-nyc.org or 212-354-2878 x 114.

